

REMARKS

Claim 23 has been amended such that when the plasticiser consists of water, and water content is based on weight percent of the matrix. Supports for the amendments are found on page 13, lines 24-29. Claims 47, 48 and 50 have been amended so that they are consistent with independent claim 23, from which they depend. Claim 27 has been canceled.

No new matter has been added by this amendment. Entry is believed to be proper and respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 23-26, 34-38 and 41-52 are pending. No additional claim fee is due.

REJECTIONS**Claim Rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph**

Claims 47-51 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph for reasons stated on page 3 of the Final Office Action.

Claims 47 and 50 have been amended so that the active ingredients in these claims are now consistent with independent claim 23, from which they depend.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 102(b) or 103 over Guerry et al.

The rejections of Claims 23-27, 34-38 and 42-46 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by, and in the alternative, under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over, US 4,176,079 to Guerry et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Guerry") are maintained for reasons of record (see page 2 of the Final Office Action).

Claims 50-51 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by, and in the alternative, under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over, US 4,176,079 to Guerry et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Guerry") for reasons stated on pages 4-5 of the Final Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse, to the extent that the rejections may be applied to the presently amended claims.

Guerry does not teach or suggest the presently claimed elastic article comprising a matrix, which comprises a plasticizer consisting of 3-15% by weight of the matrix of water.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe the above is a complete response to the Office Action and places Claims 23-26, 34-38 and 41-52 in condition for allowance.

In the event that issues remain prior to allowance of the noted claims, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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